CONSTITUTION

OF THE

LAY ASSOCIATION

IN SUPPORT OF THE

Presbyterian Church of Canada,

IN CONNECTION WITH THE

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

ESTABLISHED 1st OCTOBER, 1845.

Montreal:

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1845.

OFFICERS

OF THE

LAY ASSOCIATION

IN SUPPORT OF THE

Presbyterian Church of Canada,

In connection with the Church of Scotland,

ELECTED 29TH OCT. 1845.

President.

HON. PETER McGILL.

Vice Presidents.

THOMAS WILSON,
JOHN FISHER,
ROBERT ARMOUR,
ANDREW SHAW.

Treasurer,

ANDREW H. ARMOUR.

Recording Secretary,

WILLIAM EDMONSTONE.

Corresponding Secretary,

HEW RAMSAY.

Managers,

D. STEWART,
JOHN ARMOUR,
JAMES YOUNG,
NEIL MACINTOSH,
JAMES SCOTT,
WM. DOW,
JOHN FROTHINGHAM,
JOHN GREENSHIELDS,
JOHN SMITH,
J. G. MACKENZIE,
A. COWAN,
JOHN BIRSS,
H. E. MONTGOMERIE.

Chaplains,

REV. A. MATHIESON, D. D.
REV. R. McGILL.

CONSTITUTION.

Whereas numerous obstacles have, in times past, been interposed to the progress of Presbyterianism in this Province, particularly in Country Districts, from the inability of many Congregations to provide means adequate to the support either of their Pastors or Churches, for the worship of Almighty God; **And Whereas also**, much ignorance and misapprehension exists respecting the Constitution and Government of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and the Venerable Parent Church of Scotland, as by law Established—of their progress in Missionary and Educational labours, and of their position relatively to other Religious Bodies; **Now We**, whose names are hereunto subscribed, considering it not only a duty, but a high privilege, to obviate these evils, inasmuch as in us lies, have resolved to form ourselves into an ASSOCIATION, for the purpose, principally, of affording assistance to poor or small congregations in the payment of their Clergy, and in the erection of Churches, and for

widely disseminating, in the form of Missionary Records, Pamphlets or Magazines, useful and instructive information respecting the Church of Scotland, and the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection therewith. For the better attaining of such important purposes, we have agreed to the following

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

The Name of this Association shall be "THE LAY ASSOCIATION IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA, IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND," and shall have a Common Seal, with the Motto, "Nec tamen consumebatur," engraved thereon.

ARTICLE II.

Every Subscriber to the Funds of the Association to the amount of Five Shillings annually, being a Member of, or Adherent to, the said Church, shall be considered a Member of the Association. A Ballot, however, may be claimed, at any Quarterly or other General Meeting, by any three Members, for the purpose of determining whether the name of a new Subscriber should be admitted to the Roll; and should five black balls be found in the Ballot-box, the party so claiming admission shall be notified by the Recording Secretary, that he was not duly elected a Member,

and his subscription shall at the same time be returned to him.

ARTICLE III.

The Officers of the Association shall be a President, Four Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary and Thirteen Managers. These Officers shall be elected by ballot, on the last Tuesday in September, annually, and a plurality of votes shall decide. The President shall be first elected, and announced to the Meeting, next the Vice-Presidents, then the Treasurer, and two Secretaries, and lastly the Managers ; and all these Officers shall enter on their respective duties immediately thereafter.

ARTICLE IV.

The Association, at its Annual Meeting for the Election of Officers, shall appoint two or more Chaplains, who shall open and close all Quarterly and other General Meetings of the Association, with prayer ; they shall be Honorary Members of the Board of Officers, but without having any vote thereat.

ARTICLE V.

The Association shall hold four Quarterly Meetings every year, viz : on the second Tuesdays in January, April, July and October, in addition to the Annual Meeting for the Election of Officers, as before mentioned.

ARTICLE VI.

A Special Meeting of the Association may at any time be called by the President, or, in his absence, by the Officer highest in rank who may be in the City; or it may be called on the requisition of any five Members, specially made to the President, or, in his absence, to the Officer next highest in rank; and on receiving such requisition, it shall not be competent to the said Officers to decline calling such meeting.

ARTICLE VII.

The Annual, Quarterly and Special Meetings of the Association shall be called by two advertisements in at least two Montreal newspapers, and at all such Meetings, there shall be at least thirteen Members present, previous to proceeding to business. At each Quarterly Meeting, the Officers, through the Recording Secretary and Treasurer, shall give every information relative to the proceedings of the Association, and the state of its funds; and at the Annual Meeting, immediately before proceeding to the election of Officers, they shall present written Reports of the transactions of the past year, and of the application of the monies entrusted to them.

ARTICLE VIII.

The President shall, when present, preside over all Meetings of the Association, or of the Board of Officers; he shall preserve order therein, put the question,

and declare the decision. He shall likewise sign all orders on the Treasurer for money voted by the Association, or by the Board of Officers. In his absence, the next highest Officer present shall preside. The President, or Officer presiding in his stead, shall only be entitled to vote in cases where an equal number of votes have been given on each side.

ARTICLE IX.

The duties specified in the foregoing Article shall, in the absence of the President, devolve on the Vice-President next highest in rank, who may be present. In regard to signing orders on the Treasurer, it shall be necessary, in the absence of the President, that the signature of two Vice-Presidents be attached thereto.

ARTICLE X.

The Officers enumerated in Article III, shall constitute a Board for the management of the affairs of the Association, and for this purpose they shall meet on the first Tuesday in each Month, when five shall be necessary to form a quorum. The Board of Officers shall consider the claims of Congregations for assistance from the funds of the Association, for the support of their Clergymen, or for aiding in the building or repairing of places of worship. In cases of emergency, they may direct the Treasurer to pay a sum not exceeding Ten Pounds, towards either of these purposes; but, as a general rule, all applications must be

submitted by them to the first Quarterly Meeting after receipt thereof, with their recommendation as to the disposal of each case, and they shall be governed by the decision then come to, as determined by a plurality of votes. The Board of Officers shall, in all cases where money has been applied by a vote of the Association, use due diligence in seeing that the Treasurer carry the same into effect. At each Quarterly Meeting, the Board shall present an estimate of what monies shall be required, during the ensuing quarter, to meet the expense of supplying useful and instructive information to the Members, in the form of Books, Pamphlets or Magazines; and they shall see that such sums as may be voted for this purpose, be faithfully applied. The Board shall alone have the power of determining what publications shall be circulated at the expense of the Association.

ARTICLE XI.

The Treasurer shall have the custody of the money and other property of the Association. He shall keep regular accounts of his Receipts and Expenditure, in suitable Books, provided for the purpose; he shall, at each Quarterly Meeting, present an abstract of his Accounts, and afford such other information as the Association may require; and he shall honour all drafts made on him by the President, or, in his absence from the City, by any two Vice-Presidents.

ARTICLE XII.

The Recording Secretary shall have the custody of

all the Records and Journals of the Association; he shall keep an accurate list of the Members; he shall, by direction of the President, or, in his absence, of the proper Officer, summon Meetings of the Association, by public advertisement, or of the Board of Officers, by private circular.

ARTICLE XIII.

The Corresponding Secretary shall have charge of the correspondence of the Association. It shall be his duty to collect information respecting the condition of country Congregations applying for aid, and of places where it may be thought requisite to have Churches established, and to communicate the same to the Board of Officers. Previous to the Annual Meeting, he shall draft a Report of the year's transactions, and submit the same to the last Monthly Meeting of the Board, by whom the same may be adopted, altered or modified, as they may think fit. The Corresponding Secretary shall have custody of the Seal of the Association, of its Letter Book, and of all letters relating to the business of the Board, or of the Association.

ARTICLE XIV.

In case of the death, resignation or removal of any Officer, during the term for which he may have been elected, the Board of Officers, at their next Monthly Meeting, shall choose another Member in his stead, to serve for the remaining part of the term.

ARTICLE XV.

The Annual Subscriptions shall become due on the 1st of June, annually, and shall be collected in such manner as the Board of Officers may direct. The Funds of the Association being for two several purposes, shall be kept distinct :—the one to be entitled "The Relief Fund," and the other "The Publication Fund"; and it shall not be competent to apply either of these Funds, or any portion thereof, otherwise than for the purpose originally intended, without the consent of four-fifths of the Members of the Association present at any Meeting specially called for considering the matter. The Subscription Lists of the Association shall be kept in the following form :—

SUBSCRIBERS.	RELIEF FUND.		PUBLICATION FUND.	
	Donations	*Annual Subscriptions*	*Donations*	*Annual Subscriptions*

and the Treasurer shall keep four separate Accounts in his Books, corresponding to these titles.

ARTICLE XVI.

At any Annual, Quarterly or Special Meeting, the Association may direct the investment of any portion of the Funds, in Bank or other Stock, in name of the President, Treasurer and Recording Secretary, and their successors in Office. The interest, only, derived from the Donations made to the two Funds, shall be available, together with the whole of the Annual Subscriptions, for the current year's expenses of the Association; and it shall not be competent to apply any part of the Capital of the said two Funds, without the consent of four-fifths of the Members of the Association present at a Meeting, specially called for the purpose of considering the same.

ARTICLE XVII.

Branch Societies, which may be formed by Country Congregations, shall be entitled to participate in all the advantages anticipated from the Publication Fund, and their recommendation for appropriation from the Relief Fund, shall, in every case, be carefully and thoroughly considered: Provided always that the amount of Donations and Subscriptions, forwarded in each year to the Treasurer, previous to the Annual Meeting, amount at least to the sum of Three Pounds Fifteen Shillings on account of the Publication Fund, and Ten Pounds on account of the Relief Fund. The President and two Vice-Presidents of each such Branch Association shall have power to attend and vote at all General Meetings of the Association, on producing certificates of their election to such Offices signed by their respective

Secretaries. Branch Associations forwarding to the Treasurer as above, the sum of Ten Pounds or upwards, towards the Publication Fund, and Fifty Pounds or upwards towards the Relief Fund, shall be entitled to vote, at all General Meetings of the Association, through their President, and any six other Members, appointed for the purpose.

ARTICLE XVIII.

Should the Branch Associations, or other any Societies formed with similar views to the present, be desirous of establishing a Provincial Lay Association, this Association will at all times be prepared to consider their proposal in a friendly spirit.

ARTICLE XIX.

No alteration or addition shall be made to this Constitution, except at an Annual or Quarterly Meeting of the Association, and then only, provided the proposed amendment be concurred in by four-fifths of the Members present at such Meeting.

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